Besides, all the spot sources namely handpumps, tubewells, sanitary wells are subjected to strong does of chlorination.

Wherever the problem of chemical contamination of drinking water sources is detected, remedial measures are taken. Between 94-98, 100 sub-mission projects were sanctioned for States suffering from various quality problems like excess iron, excess salinity, excess fluride and excess arsenic costing Rs. 122755.62 lakh with Government of India share of Rs. 92091.29 lakh includjng 7 sub-mission projects for Karnataka. From 1.04.98 onwards powers for sanctioning and implementing the sub-mission projects in water quality affected areas have been delegated to the State Governments.

It has also been decided to start a National Rural Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme for institutionalization of community based water quality monitoring and surveillance system with technical support from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Utilisation of MPLADS funds in schemes for providing pure drinking water

†1589. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide pure drinking water under 'Swajaldhara Scheme';

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme to provide pure drinking water to villages by contribution of money from MPs Local Area Development Fund in it;

(c) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued to States in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Government of India provides 90% of the estimated capital cost of the schemes taken up under Swajaldhara with the local community contributing the balance funds. Partial sharing of capital cost by the community is a Central aspect of the reform process aimed at inculcating a sense of ownership amongst the people with a view to facilitating their involvement in the implementation and upkeep of the schemes. As such, contribution from the MPs Local Area Development Fund scheme as a substitute of community contribution is not envisaged.

Availability of bitumen

†1590. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether roads are metalled under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, what is the procedure to ensure easy availability of necessary Alkatra (Bitumen) for metalling of roads; and

(c) whether it is a fact that non-availability of bitumen in time affect quality of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims at providing connectivity by way of all-weather roads to eligible unconnected habitations. The design and standards are as laid out in the Rural Roads Manual (IRC SP; 20:2002). The pavement should be negotiable during all weathers, but this does not necessarily imply that it should be paved or surfaced or black topped.

The road works are executed by State Government Agencies through contracts as per the PMGSY Standard Bidding Document. The State Governments take necessary steps to ensure that bitumen is available in adequate quantity. In case for any reason there is a large time gap before application of bituminous layer, rerolling/profile correction of the metal layer is required to be done to maintain the requisite quality.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.